

Closing Day

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As the afternoon of 14 March comes to a close in Barcelona, it is obvious that the volume of messages has fallen off, and that participants are starting to go home (i.e., unsubscribe to TRANSFER-L).

I would like to thank all of those who have participated, actively or passively. Special thanks to Doug Robinson and Anthony Pym and Michael Cronin for taking on the role of «invited speakers» in this experiment, but equal thanks to everyone else who participated as well.

This has been an experiment that we should be able to learn from. I would be very interested in receiving «feedback» from participants that might help us to design future on-line activities better.

I think we have seen that the information load of many messages ran the danger of being an information overload. Perhaps we were mid-way between a «live» colloquium and an exchange of learned articles in journals, at times.

I was not able to introduce either of the two elements that might have made possible an interactive element in «real» time: «chat» or videoconferencing. Those are areas to be explored.

I think we have not resolved the problem that formed one of the bases of the colloquium itself —intercultural communication via a «lingua franca». I sus-

pect that there are people who were happy to «look on», or «listen in», without participating actively, but I suspect that there were participants who might have participated more actively if the colloquium had been more multilingual, if we had created more of an «interculture» in this «cyberhall» where we held the colloquium.

I think that the emergent behaviour we have been observing over the last two weeks does show that the TRANSFER-L messages were different from TRANSLAT messages or LANTRA-L messages.

I am particularly interested in being able to establish where that difference lies. I am interested in trying to establish what an «on-line» colloquium allows us to do that a «live» colloquium does not. This INTERNET environment should help us to improve what we already do in other communications media (including live, face-to-face interaction). To do so I think we have to discover more about the emerging nature of this medium of communication.

TRANSFER-L will not go on much longer. I will keep it open for another few days in order to allow the people who are just beginning the morning of the last «official» day to make their contributions, and also to allow all participants to offer their opinions about the experience itself, about

how it could be improved, about possible topics for future on-line activities, etc.

Personally, I am pleased with the result; and I hope that all of the other participants will have enjoyed the experience

and that it may have stimulated thought on the practice, teaching and theory of translation across disciplinary and experiential lines.

Thank you for being with us.